

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 124494 TOSEC 020082

63

ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:AVW

APPROVED BY S/PRS:RLFUNSETH

S/S-O:JHOGANSON

----- 097807

P 290036Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 124494 TOSEC 020082

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER. H. A.)

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 28, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS, FUNSETH

NO. 8

SITUATION IN LAOS AND KIDNAPPING IN TANZANIA WERE PRIME TOPICS AT TODAY'S BRIEFING. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF ACTING SPOKESMAN FUNSETH'S RESPONSES:

1. LAOS -- AT COB TODAY IN VIENTIANE THERE WERE 182 OFFICIAL AMERICANS INCLUDING DEPENDENTS IN LAOS. ABOUT 80 FROM OFFICIAL COMMUNITY LEFT YESTERDAY. EMBASSY ESTIMATES ABOUT 100 REMAIN IN PRIVATE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND HAS ADVISED THIS GROUP THAT UNLESS THEIR WORK REQUIRES THEIR PRESENCE IN LAOS, THEY SHOULD CONSIDER LEAVING. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REDUCE OUR STAFF IN LAOS BASED ON DETERMINATION OF PRESENCE WE NEED CONSISTENT WITH LEVEL OF OPERATIONS WE HAVE WHEN WE COMPLETE OUR TALKS WITH LAO AUTHORITIES. ASKED BY BRADSHAW OF WASH STAR TO CONFIRM A STORY (O'LEARY, WASH STAR) CITING "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE" THAT SECRETARY HAD CABLED INSTRUCTIONS TO REDUCE EMBASSY STAFF TO 50; FUNSETH SAID HE WOULD NOT COMMENT OR DISCUSS ON REPORTS ALLEGEDLY BASED ON CLASSIFIED CABLES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 124494 TOSEC 020082

FUNSETH CONFIRMED PRESENCE OF PL POLICE OR SOLDIERS IN

USAID COMPOUND AS OF LATE AFTERNOON YESTERDAY FOR AS YET UNEXPLAINED REASONS. OTHERWISE, EMBASSY HAS REPORTED ATMOSPHERE TODAY AS LESS TENSE THAN IN RECENT DAYS. REMAINING AID STAFF HAS REENTERED BUILDINGS AND RESUMED BUSINESS, PRIMARILY PAYING WAGES TO THOSE WHO HADN'T BEEN PAID BECAUSE OF OCCUPATION OF COMPOUND.

2. KIDNAPPING IN TANZANIA - FUNSETH DENIED THAT U.S. IS UNHAPPY OVER DEGREE OF GOVT OF ZAIRE COOPERATION -- AS REPORTED BY AP, WHICH QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED U.S. OFFICIAL IN DAR-ES-SALAAM THAT GOZ IS DOING "NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE" TO HELP KIDNAPPED STUDENTS. HE SAID WE HAVE HAD COOPERATION OF GOZ FROM BEGINNING AND HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH ZAIRE OFFICIALS.

ON ANNOUNCED TANZANIAN REFUSAL TO PAY RANSOM, FUNSETH CITED STATEMENT MADE YESTERDAY BY AMBASSADOR CARTER THAT TANZANIANS APPRECIATED DIFFICULTY OF PROBLEM AND WERE TRYING TO WORK OUT WAYS TO BRING ABOUT SAFE RELEASE. HE SAID CARTER WAS SATISFIED WITH COOPERATION HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING.

RESPONDING TO FURTHER QUESTION, FUNSETH CONFIRMED THAT IN GENERAL THE POSITION THAT "NO RANSOM SHOULD BE PAID" REMAINS A PRINCIPLE OF U.S. POLICY. BUT WE DO NOT TELL OTHER GOVTS HOW TO CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS, AND IN THIS CASE BRINGING ABOUT SAFE RELEASE OF STUDENTS IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBILITY OF HOST GOVT. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO GET INTO AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME.

3. ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY'S REPORT ON IEA ADDRESS - ASKED FOR COMMENT ON ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY'S REPORT THAT SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONTAINS NO NEW ELEMENTS, FUNSETH SAID WE HAVE NOT BEEN APPRISED OF THIS VIEW OFFICIALLY AND, BESIDES, FOCUS OF DISCUSSION IS IN PARIS. WE ARE NOW RECEIVING REACTIONS, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY RESPONSE.

4. PHILIPPINES - FUNSETH STATED WE HAVE HAD SOME INFORMAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 124494 TOSEC 020082

TALKS IN PHILIPPINES ABOUT LEVEL OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE THERE. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON IN JULY ON HOME LEAVE AND WE WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSION WITH HIM THEN.

5. GERMANY ON SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IN NATO - FUNSETH HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER GERMANS TOLD SECRETARY THEY WOULD RESIST EFFORTS TO BRING SPAIN INTO NATO AND DISCUSS

POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF PORTUGAL FROM NATO. INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IPERNICK:AVW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-0030
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975059/aaaaahmq.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 28, 1975 FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS, FUNSETH
TAGS: SOPN, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006